

“You don’t have to be afraid.”

New Protections for Stalking Victims



A project of California Secretary of State Bill Jones

“You Can Be Safe at Home”

If you are or have been a victim of stalking, the Secretary of State’s SAFE AT HOME confidential address program can help keep your stalker from finding you once you relocate.

What is “Safe at Home?”

- SAFE AT HOME is a no-cost mail forwarding service designed to help stalking victims keep their new addresses confidential.
- SAFE AT HOME offers stalking victims another layer of protection by providing a substitute mailing address to use whenever their home, work or school address is required.
- SAFE AT HOME allows state and local agencies throughout California to coordinate with the Secretary of State to protect the addresses of stalking victims. While these agencies may respond to requests for public record information, they will not disclose the actual whereabouts of victims enrolled in the program.
- SAFE AT HOME was established by legislation in 1998, to help victims of domestic violence. In 2000, the program was expanded to include stalking victims, as well.
- SAFE AT HOME allows an adult or the guardian of a minor or incapacitated person to designate the Secretary of State as his or her agent for service of process and mail receipt. The Secretary of State’s office then accepts and forwards legal documents, first-class and certified mail, and mail from government agencies to the participant’s new address, which is kept strictly confidential.

How Does Safe at Home Work?

- Stalking victims can apply for the SAFE AT HOME Confidential Address Program at designated victims assistance facilities. After completing the application process, participants are enrolled in the program and certified by the Secretary of State.
- Each participant receives an official authorization ID card containing a substitute address for use in business or public transactions requiring a residence or mailing address. State and local agencies are required to accept the SAFE AT HOME address when the participant presents his or her authorization card.
- When first-class, government, served or certified mail is delivered to the participant's SAFE AT HOME address, it is forwarded to their confidential address within 48 hours. Magazines, catalogs, newspapers, junk mail and parcel packages cannot be forwarded.
- Program participants can have their voter registration information kept confidential by completing a confidential voter registration affidavit at the time of enrollment or when re-registering at County Clerks/ Registrar of Voters offices. Once registered, SAFE AT HOME participants automatically receive "absent voter status" so they can vote by mail.
- The SAFE AT HOME Confidential Address Program is not a witness protection program. It is simply a mail forwarding service offered as a precautionary measure for use with the victim's overall health and safety plan.

Who is Eligible for Safe at Home?

- Stalking victims who can provide evidence that they are being stalked are eligible for the SAFE AT HOME program.
- The following forms of "evidence" are accepted for purposes of enrollment: 1) police report, court record or other government agency form, 2) documentation from a legal, clerical, medical or other professional from whom the victim or applicant sought assistance in dealing with the stalking, or 3) any other evidence that supports the victim's sworn statement — such as a statement from another individual with knowledge of the circumstances that provide the basis for the claim or physical evidence of the stalking.



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For more information,
call toll-free **1-877-322-5227**
or visit **www.ss.ca.gov/safeathome/**